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FROM AN OLD FRIEND.

### Central California.

Our little party of four, bound southward and homeward, landing at the Oakland wharf by the 9 A. M. beat, speedily transferred themselves to the Smithern Pacific train in readi- affairs of the nation, have difficulty in p ness to depart on its long trans-continental journey. Amid the ringing of accompanies and paper that enables them to continue the bells, three trains rolled out of the large and persecutions upon a patient and long affect. handsome depot, but at the end of she narrow public. The weather sharps are not strip of filled in land, which leads to the shore a mile or two distant, we parted company, our own country. The most noted one train turning northward along the bay shore. This course we followed for many miles, amount of precipitation in any portion of stopping occasionally at small towns or villages earth for any number of years in advan-On our right hand were charming valleys of the United States, Great Britain, Francisco dotted with farm houses, and low, rolling, Germany, Russia, Austria and Italy, trying air of pleasing quiet. Nothing could be more one here, and the attempt was made. peaceful than the view of the town of Benicia

enter the great San Joaquin valley, passing ever, for it began to rain shortly after from through the counties of Contra Costa, San Oregon to the Gulf of California and con oaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Fresno and into tinued without interruption for eight days and As we travel south, the weather be nights. The theory is a success. And ye comes warmer and the grass and grain in the the sky shooter is still called a crank by som fields shorter, the southern part of the state people. being in great distress from want of rain, This lack of moisture is in a great measure There is yet one natural phenomenon that i mountains on the eastern side of the valley, whose summits are clad in perpetual snow, send down numerous streams from their deep climate" of California. It makes its appearcanons, which are conducted upon the plains ance in the dry season, and is liable to become in large canals and poured upon the thirsty an uninvited guest at any portion of that sea-

here within the last decade. There were then apparent by a huge hazy bank, beside which very few settlements off the line of the newly the dust clouds of Maui and Kahoolawe are tened upon the nutritious herbage, the former to grow dim; the grains of sand increase twice each year for marking, branding, etc. to Nevada or Arizona, and thousands of farms of California. Some of these farms or

great portion of the interior of the state. It is divided into three parts, the Sacramento, San and dusty, business was almost dead, an Joaquin and Tulare valleys, but it is really and dusty, business was almost dead, an one vast level plain from northern to southern limit. The southern portion is generally spoken of as the San Joaquin plain. The first time the writer traveled down the western side of this valley, near the coast range, dwelling houses were twenty to thirty miles apart, and one individual was met who expressed a desire of move to some new country, as it was getting too thickly settled for him there. Poor man! It is to be hoped that he has found a "lodge in some vast where foot of man will not tread wilderness." where foot of man will not tread wilderness." where foot of man will not tread the tint of the prevailing hue; the buttonfirst time the writer traveled down the western time fleet-footed antelope could be seen skimming over the plain, and here the writer made his first ineffectual attempt to shoot one. At night the only sounds to be heard were the lonely, mournful cry of the burrowing owl and the openings in the timber, presented the most delicate mosaic conceiveable; the values coyote or prairie wolf. To-day the level plain is checkered by orchards, vineyards and of civilization. What will this valley be twenty or fifty years hence? What will a it was worth at least \$1,000,000 to the San of the United States

As the train bore us on southward through Fresno county, the sun dropped behind the western range and ere we feached the timbered region along King's river, near the line of Tulare county, night was upon us. And 'twas well! This section had felt the want of rain

Tulare county, night was upon us. And 'twas well! This section had felt the want of rain most severely, and there was not a sufficient growth of grass to hide the bare earth. Nothing can be more dreary than the unsettled portion of these plains in the dry season when no green blade is to be seen, save an occasional patch of salt grass or alkali weed.

At the little station of Goshen are two branch roads, and here we lost once of our party, the proprietor of the Visalia Delta, and a "shipmate" of the writer on that journal a few years ago. He took another train for Visalia, and we continued on to the next town, Tulare, where we, too, left the cars. We had no sooner stepped upon the platform than we were recognized by friends, dark as it was, and they were all that we remembered. The town and the surrounding country had changed; the houses were different; lanes had grown into streets; many of the streets had become tree-bordered avenues; the spirit of improvement, in fact, had been "making things howl." We did not know the way home and it was with some difficulty that we found the place about 11 F. M.

Tulare county, California, inay be unknown to most residents of the islands, but, aside from being a pleasant and prosperous section of the state, it is gradually becoming famous as the land of cranks. (The county's notoriety in this respect was established before the

cturn of the writer.) This species is divided mainly into two classes, financiers and weather prophets. The former are the more numeros re the hardest workers, and have advance any theories, any one of which, if follows would place the country upon a sound finan main; not one of them but has forgetten m han Robert Morris ever knew about mone Every newspaper office in the county is fil with their MS,, and editors are always hap and anxious to give them space in the wa basket. But great minds are unoscressful small things, and these talented individua who arroise without heditation in the finanviding themselves with the necessary pen, persecutions upon a patient and long-suffer years ago discovered how to foretell accommodation of way passengers. He was corresponding with the government grass-covered hills; on our left the waters of sell his secret and asking only \$1,000,000 San Francisco, San Pablo and Suisan bays, from each of the countries named, but some the last two being as muldy as the Sacramento body shot him a while ago and the corres and San Joaquin rivers, that empty into them, pondence has ceased. The leading member A few schooner-rigged scows were to be seen of the fraternity now living thinks that a good making slow progress against the current, marksman can bombard the sky with artiller In the distance arose the smoke of a steam- and knock a hole in the bottom large enough boat coming down from the Sacramento. The to let out sufficient moisture for those sections scenery in the vicinity of Port Costa has an subject to growth. The last winter was a dry mortar of small calibre was purchased, also on the opposite shore, notwithstanding that a few bomb-shells charged with dynamite. A detachment of Uncle Sam's army is still shell was discharged at the first cloud that came sailing along, unapprehensive of danger a second shot was tried, but the morta Diablo, we take a southeasterly course and exploded; the first one hit the bull's eye, how

So much for the fauna of Tulare county supplied by irrigation. The Sierra Nevada worthy of mention. This is the "sand storm," which is only seen to perfection in the Lahona desert and under the "glorious son. It usually travels in company with the What a wonderful change has been made northwest winds, and its approach is made

constructed railroad, and only here and there babes in comparison. It is not long until the the residence of a stock raiser. Thousands of fine particles of sand begin to patter against cattle and mustangs and flocks of sheep fat- the window panes; the light of day then begins roaming at will, being only gathered together size; twigs and branches are snapped from the trees; the large oaks make a low salaam, and Now the cattle are gone, having been driven only arise when the storm has passed; the wind yells and shricks like a thousand contribute their quota to the large grain export demons; horses, cattle, and all other domestic animals love the storm, and will leave green ranches are as large as a German principality. fields and pastures new to travel along with it. It is not uncommon to see a single field with the fence on one side extending ten or fifteen miles. Everything is done on a large scale with the most involved and the storm has a delightful breeze and the storm has a delightful breeze and the storm has a delightful breeze. miles. Everything is done on a large scale with the most improved machinery. The ground is plowed by large gang plows, and is seeded and harrowed at the same time. The heads of the growing grain are cut off by a large header driven through the field, and are run into header wagons by an elevator, and these convey them to a stock where the same time is to be a person who is exposed to it, and leaves no mud holes in the roads. It is only necessary after it to beat carpets, send window curtains to the warb time. is threshed by steam power, and sacked ready for hauling to the railroad. But even this is getting too slow, and a combination header then all is as quiet and serene as before the arrival of the pharometers and the first threshed by steam power, and sacked ready the immovables. This can be done in three or four days, and getting too slow, and a combination header arrival of the pharometers and the first three immovables. getting too slow, and a combination header and thresher is now used which cuts the grain from the stalk, threshes it, and sacks it all at one operation.

This valley is five hundred miles in length

When your correspondent arrived in Tular everything was as dull as the back side of by occasional showers for several weeks. The until he is gathered to his fathers. At that time fleet-footed antelope could be seen skimbrown and drear, became the "Garden of th

> It has been a queer season. The cold weather continued until late in the spring, and the rains did not commence until the tim Joaquin valley. Heavy speculating was bein done in grain when it was thought to be to late in the season to get a fall of rain of an value, and a number of grain dealers in Sa Francisco invested all the money they had o could borrow. The unprecedented spell o late rainy weather proved disastrous to them. One dealer alone lost \$100,000, but his los was the people's gain. Tulare, California, June 1, 1883.

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